

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

HARRY HUDDLESTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS,

and

ALTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,

and

STEPHAN JANUARY,

and

ANDREW PIERSON,

and

MATTHEW M. WRIGHT,

and

ALAN WILLIAMSON,

Defendants.

No. 3:10-cv-00995-JPG -DGW

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil action seeking money damages against the City of Alton, Illinois (City), Stephan January (January), Andrew Pierson (Pierson), Mathew Wright (Wright), and Alan Williamson (Williamson), for committing acts under color of law which deprived Plaintiff of rights secured under the Constitution and laws of the United States. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson unlawfully assaulted and battered Plaintiff, or failed to intervene and protect Plaintiff from the unlawful assault and battery perpetrated in violation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant Alton Memorial Hospital and Wright and Williamson perpetrated acts against Plaintiff in violation of Illinois State law.

JURISDICTION STATEMENT

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983 and §1988 and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. The Court has jurisdiction of this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, 28 U.S.C. §1343 and 28 U.S.C. §1331. Plaintiff further invokes the supplemental jurisdiction of this Court to hear and decide claims arising under Illinois State law, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.

PARTIES

3. At all times referred to herein, Plaintiff Harry Huddleston was a citizen and resident of the State of Illinois, and the United States of America.
4. At all times referred to herein, Defendant City of Alton, Illinois was a municipality pursuant to the laws of the State of Illinois.

5. At all times referred to herein, Defendant Stephen January is a police officer for the City of Alton, Illinois. At all times referred to herein, Defendant January acted under color of law. Defendant January is sued in his individual capacity.
6. At all times referred to herein, Defendant Andrew Pierson is a Police Officer for the City of Alton, Illinois. At all times referred to herein, Defendant Pierson acted under color of law. Defendant Pierson is sued in his individual capacity.
7. At all times referred to herein, Defendant Matthew Wright was a Security Officer and employee or agent of Defendant Alton Memorial Hospital.
8. At all times referred to herein, Defendant Alan Williamson was an employee or agent of Defendant Alton Memorial Hospital.

FACTS

9. On or about December 9, 2008, Plaintiff's wife died at Alton Memorial Hospital.
10. Shortly after learning of her death, Plaintiff was unlawfully battered, physically restrained, and forced to the floor by one or more of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson.
11. As Defendants held Plaintiff to the floor he was subjected to electrical shocks from a Taser by one or more of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson .
12. Defendants handcuffed Plaintiff and transported him to the Alton Police Department, and placed Plaintiff in a holding cell.
13. Plaintiff was charged with Disorderly Conduct pursuant to 720 ILCS 5.0/26-1-A1.
14. The use of any force against Plaintiff was unnecessary and excessive.
15. All related criminal charges against Plaintiff are dismissed.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

**USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE IN VIOLATION OF THE FOURTH AND
FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION BY DEFENDANTS JANUARY, PIERSON, WRIGHT,
AND WILLIAMSON, COGNIZABLE PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983**

16. By this reference, Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
17. Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, acting alone and together, and in concert, did arrest, assault, batter, kick, hit, and administer an electrical shock from a Taser on Plaintiff, and otherwise brutalize Plaintiff, as aforescribed, and/or failed to prevent the unlawful acts of each other when each had the opportunity to do so.
18. As a direct and proximate result of the aforescribed excessive force by Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson, Plaintiff suffered grievous bodily harm and was deprived of his right to be free from unreasonable seizure of his person, in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, and 42 U.S.C. §1983.
19. As a direct and proximate result of the malicious, brutal, and outrageous conduct of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson, as aforescribed, Plaintiff suffered permanent injuries, bruising, burns, and pain. Plaintiff's body was weak, stiff, sore, and painful. The brutal assault on Plaintiff at the hands of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson caused Plaintiff to be fearful for his life and great fear for his safety.

20. Plaintiff has suffered pain of the mind and the body, and fear, apprehension, depression, consternation, and suffered damages in connection with the deprivation of his constitutional rights.
21. The acts of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, as aforescribed, were intentional, wanton, malicious, oppressive, reckless, and callously indifferent to the rights of Plaintiff, thus entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages against Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson.
22. Additionally, Plaintiff suffered, and continues to suffer, special damages in the form of medical expenses, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.
23. If Plaintiff prevails, he is entitled to an award of attorney fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, jointly and severally, for compensatory damages in an amount that is fair and reasonable, and for punitive damages, plus costs of this action, attorney's fees, and such other relief, as the Court deems fair and appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT II

UNLAWFUL SEIZURE BY ARREST AND DETENTION BY DEFENDANTS JANUARY, PIERSON, WRIGHT, AND WILLIAMSON, COGNIZABLE UNDER 42 U.S.C. §1983

For his cause of action against Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, in Count II, Plaintiff states:

24. By this reference, Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
25. Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, maliciously, and without reasonable grounds or probable cause, arrested and detained Plaintiff.

26. The arrest and detention were in violation of the Plaintiff's right to be free from unreasonable seizure secured by the Fourth and the Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and protected under 42 U.S.C. §1983.
27. As a direct and proximate result of the aforescribed excessive force by Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson, Plaintiff suffered grievous bodily harm and was deprived of his right to be free from unreasonable seizure of his person, in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, and 42 U.S.C. §1983.
28. As a direct and proximate result of the malicious, brutal, and outrageous conduct of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson, as aforescribed, Plaintiff suffered permanent injuries, bruising, burns, and pain. Plaintiff's body was weak, stiff, sore, and painful. The brutal assault on Plaintiff at the hands of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and / or Williamson caused Plaintiff to be fearful for his life and great fear for his safety.
29. Plaintiff has suffered pain of the mind and the body, and fear, apprehension, depression, consternation, and suffered damages in connection with the deprivation of his constitutional rights.
30. The acts of Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, as aforescribed, were intentional, wanton, malicious, oppressive, reckless, and callously indifferent to the rights of Plaintiff, thus entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages against Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson.
31. Additionally, Plaintiff suffered, and continues to suffer, special damages in the form of medical expenses, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.

32. If Plaintiff prevails, he is entitled to an award of attorney fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants January, Pierson, Wright, and Williamson, jointly and severally, for compensatory damages in an amount that is fair and reasonable, and for punitive damages, plus costs of this action, attorney's fees, and such other relief as the Court deems fair and appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT III

**FAILURE TO INSTRUCT, SUPERVISE, CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE
DIRECTED AGAINST THE CITY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS, COGNIZABLE
UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

For his cause of action against Defendant City of Alton in Count III, Plaintiff states:

33. By this reference, Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 32 as though fully set forth herein.

34. Defendant City of Alton, Illinois, caused the constitutional violations suffered by Plaintiff by their deliberate indifference to the rights of the citizenry with whom the Alton Police come in contact.

35. Defendant City of Alton, Illinois, has and had a custom and/or practice of unlawfully using excessive force against citizens.

36. Defendant City of Alton, Illinois, failed to effectively screen, train, supervise, discipline, and/or control the individuals it employs as police officers.

37. Plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer, special damages in the form of medical expenses, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.

38. Upon information and belief, there exists within the Alton Police Department policies or customs, practices and usages that are so pervasive that they constitute the policy of the department, and caused the constitutional deprivations of the Plaintiff as has been more fully set forth herein.
39. The Chief of Police is delegated the power and authority to control to conduct of the Officers of the Alton Police Department, and failed and refused to properly train, to control, to discipline Officers of the Alton Police Department.
40. This failure to act affirmatively in the face of transgressions which were known or should have been known, establishes the policy of the Alton Police Department to condone and otherwise tolerate constitutionally violative conduct in general and specifically the constitutionally violative conduct alleged in this complaint. Had the Chief, or the City, or both of them, acted affirmatively to properly train the officers of the Alton Police Department, or properly supervise them, or to discipline the officers when they conducted themselves in constitutionally violative ways, the constitutional deprivation perpetrated against Plaintiff would not have occurred.
41. Upon information and belief, Defendant City was aware, or should have been aware, of the custom and practice(s) of improperly using force and excessive force, of issuing cover charges to conceal, or to otherwise justify, the excessive use of force, and of officers lying about facts to support fellow officers. Defendant City has failed to act to prevent such customs and practices.
42. In its failure as aforescribed, the City intentionally disregarded known facts, or alternatively was deliberately indifferent to a risk of the constitutional violation of which they knew or should have known. As such, it ratified the misconduct and the

policies, customs, and practices aforescribed, and their culpability caused the constitutional violation of the Plaintiff

43. As a direct and proximate result of the aforescribed failures, Plaintiff suffered grievous bodily harm and was deprived of his right to be free from unreasonable seizure of his person in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. §1983.
44. As a direct and proximate result of the failure to train, supervise, and control the officers of the Alton Police Department, Plaintiff was subjected to excessive force and suffered permanent injuries, bruising, burns, and pain. Plaintiff's body was weak, stiff, sore, and painful. The brutal assault on Plaintiff at the hands of Defendant Officers January and Pierson caused Plaintiff to be fearful for his life and great fear for his safety. Plaintiff has suffered pain of the mind as well as of the body and fear, apprehension, depression and consternation, and suffered damages in connection with the deprivation of his constitutional rights.
45. Additionally, Plaintiff suffered, and continues to suffer, special damages in the form of medical expenses, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.
46. If Plaintiff prevails, he is entitled to an award of attorney fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant City of Alton Illinois, and for compensatory damages in an amount that is fair and reasonable, attorneys' fees, the costs of this litigation, and for other relief as the Court deems fair and appropriate.

COUNT IV

ASSAULT AND BATTERY BY DEFENDANTS WRIGHT AND WILLIAMSON
COGNIZABLE UNDER ILLINOIS STATE LAW

For his cause of action against Defendants Wright and Williamson in Count IV, Plaintiff states:

47. By this reference, Plaintiff paragraphs 1 through 46 as though fully set forth herein.

48. The acts of Defendants Wright and Williamson, as aforescribed, were committed without just cause or provocation and with the intent to cause Plaintiff offensive contact, bodily harm, apprehension of offensive contact, and apprehension of bodily harm, constituting an intentional assault and battery against Plaintiff.

49. As a direct and proximate result of the malicious, brutal, and outrageous conduct of Defendants Wright and Williamson, as aforescribed, Plaintiff suffered severe and permanent injuries, bruises, and burns. Plaintiff's body was weak, stiff, sore, and painful. The brutal assault on Plaintiff at the hands of Defendants Wright, and Williamson, caused Plaintiff to be fearful for his life. The injuries to his body and the great fear for his safety have caused Plaintiff pain of the mind as well as of the body and fear, apprehension, depression and consternation.

50. Additionally, Plaintiff suffered special damages in the form of medical expenses and continues to suffer additional special damages, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.

51. The acts of Defendants as aforescribed were wanton, malicious, and oppressive, thus entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants Wright, and Williamson, jointly and severally, for compensatory damages in an amount

that is fair and reasonable, and for punitive damages, and such other relief as the Court deems fair and appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT V

**FALSE ARREST AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT BY DEFENDANTS
WRIGHT AND WILLIAMSON, COGNIZABLE UNDER ILLINOIS
STATE LAW**

For his cause of action against Defendants Wright and Williamson, in Count V, Plaintiff states:

52. By this reference, Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 51 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
53. Defendants Wright and Williamson, at such times as previously set forth herein, intentionally arrested, detained, and restrained Plaintiff against his will without probable cause to believe that Plaintiff had committed any crime, or caused the arrest, detention, and restraint of Plaintiff against his will without probable cause to believe that Plaintiff had committed any crime
54. The conduct of Defendants Wright and Williamson, in causing or exercising dominion and control over the freedom of Plaintiff, resulted in an intentional restraint of Plaintiff against his will.
55. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Wright and Williamson's arrest and detention of Plaintiff as aforescribed, Plaintiff suffered damages to his reputation and emotional well-being through the unlawful and malicious arrest and detention of his person by Defendants.

56. Additionally, Plaintiff suffered special damages in the form of medical expenses and continues to suffer additional special damages, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.

57. The conduct of Defendants Wright and Williamson as aforescribed was outrageous because of their evil motive and or reckless indifference to the rights and well-being of Plaintiff, and therefore Plaintiff is entitled to an award of punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants Wright and Williamson for compensatory damages in an amount that is fair and reasonable, and for punitive damages, and such other relief as the Court deems fair and appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT VI

LIABILITY OF ALTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR THE CONDUCT OF DEFENDANTS WRIGHT AND WILLIAMSON, COGNIZABLE UNDER ILLINOIS STATE LAW

For his cause of action against Defendant Alton Memorial Hospital in Count VI, Plaintiff states:

58. By this reference, Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 57 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

59. The acts of Defendants Wright and Williamson, as aforescribed were committed without just cause or provocation. Defendants acted with the intent to cause Plaintiff offensive contact, bodily harm, apprehension of offensive contact, and apprehension of bodily harm, constituting an intentional assault and battery against Plaintiff, and to arrest, detain, and restrain Plaintiff against

his will without probable cause to believe that Plaintiff had committed any crime.

60. Defendants Wright and Williamson acted as agents of, and within the scope of their employment at, Alton Memorial Hospital.

61. Defendant Alton Memorial Hospital is vicariously liable for the acts of Defendants Wright, and Williamson, pursuant to the doctrine of *Respondeat Superior*.

62. As a direct and proximate result of the malicious, brutal, and outrageous conduct of Defendants Wright and Williamson, as aforescribed, Plaintiff suffered severe and permanent injuries, bruises, and burns. Plaintiff's body was weak, stiff, sore, and painful. The brutal assault on Plaintiff at the hands of Defendants Wright and Williamson caused Plaintiff to be fearful for his life. The injuries to his body and the great fear for his safety have caused Plaintiff pain of the mind as well as of the body and fear, apprehension, depression and consternation.

63. Additionally, Plaintiff suffered special damages in the form of medical expenses and continues to suffer additional special damages, and will into the future, in an amount that cannot yet be determined.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Alton Memorial Hospital for compensatory damages in an amount that is fair and reasonable, and for punitive damages, and such other relief as the Court deems fair and appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,
RYALS & BREED
A Professional Corporation
By: /s/ John W. Bruzek
John W. Bruzek # AT0009651IA
3120 Locust St.
St. Louis, MO 63103
(314) 862-6262
(314) 880-2027 FAX
E-Mail: bruzek@rblawstl.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing was filed electronically on February 2, 2011, with notice to be served electronically upon the following:

PIERCE LAW FIRM, P.C.
Charles Pierce
#3 Executive Woods Court, Suite 200
Belleville, IL 62226
*Attorney for Defendant(s) City of Alton,
January, Pierce, and Hayes*

/s/ John W. Bruzek